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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6776

BILL NUMBER: SB 196

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 20, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Genetic Counselor Licensure.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Miller

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: *Licensure of Genetic Counselors*- The bill requires the licensure of genetic counselors.

Genetic Counselors Licensing Board- The bill establishes the Genetic Counselors Licensing Board.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Licensure of Genetic Counselors*- The Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) would perform the administrative functions of licensing genetic counselors for the proposed Genetic Counselors Licensing Board (the Board). The PLA reports they have 11 work groups that are currently working at capacity staffing 37 professional boards and commissions. Vacancies are either assigned to the existing boards when filled or are currently unfunded.

An additional staff person is estimated to be needed to process license applications. There would be additional start-up costs associated with a new professional board. The estimated state expenditures required are approximately \$54,500 in FY 2008 and \$54,100 in FY 2009. Expenditures would include one additional staff member, board members' per diem, lodging and mileage, telephone service, office supplies, and printing costs. The bill does not make an appropriation to cover expenditures for the Board.

Genetic Counselors Licensing Board- The Board would be composed of five members selected by the Governor. Members of the Board would be allowed the minimum salary per diem and travel reimbursement allowed by state law, plus reimbursement for expense incurred during official business. Members who are state employees would be entitled to travel and business expenses, but would not be entitled to a salary per

diem. The Board would have the power to adopt rules to establish licensure fees.

Besides establishing fees, the Board would be charged to:

- (a) recommend policy and budgetary matters to the PLA,
- (b) screen applicants for licensing, and
- (c) establish training standards for persons in the process of qualifying to be a genetic counselor.

Background- As of October 2006, the PLA had 92 full-time employees. The PLA reverted \$63,329 to the state General Fund at the close of FY 2006. There are an estimated 24 genetic counselors practicing in Indiana.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Licensure of Genetic Counselors-* Money collected from genetic counselor licensing fees would be deposited in the state General Fund.

If the Board set the license fee at \$100, which is the same or similar to the fees charged to acupuncturists, health facility administrators, hypnotists, physician assistants, and speech and language pathologists, the amount of revenue generated in the first year of implementation could range from \$1,500 to \$2,000. In order to recoup the estimated cost to establish the Board provided in *Explanation of State Expenditures*, the license fee would need to be approximately \$2,200 per applicant. The fee estimate is based on about 24 genetic counselors applying in the first year.

Background- The Indiana Network of Genetic Counselors (INGC) reports that there are about 24 practicing genetic counselors in Indiana. The INGC estimates that about 15 to 20 counselors would apply for licensure initially, with about 5 counselors applying per year for initial licenses in subsequent years. The National Society of Genetic Counselors and the American Board of Genetic Counseling report national memberships of about 2,200 and 2,000 respectfully.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Professional Licensing Agency.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Indiana Network of Genetic Counselors; American Board of Genetic Counseling; National Society of Genetic Counselors; Barbara McNutt, Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, 317-234-1987; Indiana State Budget Agency: *FY 2006 Close-Out General Fund Reversion Summary*; State of Indiana *Detail Staffing Report*, 10/03/2006; Auditor Of State *Trial Balance* 6/30/2006.

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